

Aging and Disability Resource Center-Long Term Care Options Counseling:

Helpful Information to support Information and Assistance Professionals Serving People with Developmental Disabilities



Supporting Individuals and families with Developmental Disabilities

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Developmental Disabilities

- More than seventy five thousand adults with Developmental Disabilities live in Wisconsin.
- ADRC may be first contact with services for people with developmental disabilities.



Developmental Disabilities

- People are considered by the State of Wisconsin to have a developmental disability if they have been determined by a medical professional to one or more of the following diagnosis



Developmental Disabilities

- Qualifying Diagnosis for people with developmentally disabilities.
 - Mental Retardation
 - Traumatic Brain Injury w/ onset prior to age 21
 - Cerebral Palsy
 - Epilepsy
 - Autism



Developmental Disabilities

- Qualifying Diagnosis continued:
Other or Unknown qualifying developmental disabilities.
 - Disorders in the Other or Unknown Category may also include:
 - Prader Willi Syndrome
 - Chromosomal disorders
 - Pervasive Developmental Disorder
 - Or a disabling condition



CONTACT

- The first contact ADRC receives regarding an individual with a developmental disability may occur in a variety of ways:
 1. Client and/or caregiver phone calls
 2. Office walk-in
 3. Community referrals (High Schools, Children's Services, DVR, Supported Employment Agencies)
 4. E-mail

Case scenarios on types of contacts ADRC may encounter

- Individuals with a developmental disability who live with their families, parents, guardians, or care givers and now need services due to a sudden change in circumstances such as: death, declining health, or a change in the caregiver(s) economic situation
 - Review: Safety
 - Health issues & Communication issues
 - Residential placement
 - Guardianship

Case scenarios cont.

- Individuals with developmental disabilities who need services for the first time, as they have limited or no community support services, or they have not previously been eligible for community services.

Ex: Someone who has received only school-based services (on the basis of parental income) and after turning 18, may become eligible for services on the basis of their own ability to be self-supporting

How to Help Young Adults Transition from School Programs

- Networking and Collaboration
 - 1- Individual Education Plan (IEP) meetings
 - 2- School Fairs
 - 3- Parent/ teacher conferences
 - 4- School field trips to the ADRC
 - 5- Work w/school transition coordinator
- Local Transition Advisory Councils can develop "Planning Guides" to assist individuals & families

Other Case Scenarios

- Young adults with developmental disabilities who are home schooled
 - Transitioning to community services
 - In-home services/programs
 - Outreach opportunities
 - Likely to need formal evaluation of functional abilities

Challenging Scenarios

- Individuals who have borderline intellectual functioning with a diagnosis of a learning disability vs. cognitive disability
 - They may have difficulty getting services due to insufficient history of unsuccessful employment
 - ADRC staff & the Disability Benefit Specialist can assist by providing information & referrals to help keep individuals connected to the community

Social Security Benefits

- Applying for social security benefits as an adult
- Disability Benefit Specialist
- Importance of obtaining/maintaining documentation of records RE: disability (school testing, medical records)

Support to Families

- Individuals and families are unique
 - ❖ Desires of family vs. the individual
 - ❖ Economic needs of household impact decisions
- Education
- Support Groups
- Counseling

Guardianship

- What is a guardian?

A person with a developmental disability may or may not be capable of making decisions that protect his or her own best interests. If not, the court may appoint a guardian to make decisions and act as an advocate for the person. The guardian is often a family member.

Guardianship cont.

- Does family have a right to be involved in a person's affairs if there is no guardianship?

NO, any person over the age of 18 in WI is legally an adult, and is presumed able to manage his or her own financial affairs, choose where to live, consent to medical treatment, vote, marry, and exercise his or her legal rights as an adult.

Kinds of guardians

- Guardian of the Estate

For a person who is incompetent to manage his or her finances
- Guardian of the person

For a person who is unable to arrange for personal needs, such as adequate food and shelter, medical care, and safety

A person may have a guardian of the estate, a guardian of the person, or both

One person may be both financial and personal guardian or the responsibilities may be divided

Guardianship and alternatives

- There are web casts and training regarding this topic
 - Contact your ADRC or local Health and Human Services agencies- Adult Protective Services Dept. for more information
 - Some alternatives to Guardianship
 - >Power Of Attorney
 - > Dual Signature accounts
 - > Representative Payee
- *Note: For individuals who received public benefits, there are sometimes rules which prevent a county from allowing guardians to be paid providers.

Crisis Intervention

- A crisis evolves from a person's perception of an event/situation, when a person feels they have no ability to problem solve
- Be prepared to:
Actively listen (hear what is being said),
reflect on feelings, respond with empathy,
use open ended questions, clarify, assist with
problem-solving and developing a plan

Outreach

- Have brochures available at schools & community agencies
- Provide information about ADRC in newspapers, newsletters, and free papers (Buyer's Guide, Shopper, etc.)
- ADRC open house
- Offer opportunities for joining social and recreational activities at the ADRC
- Community presentations
- Have ADRC staff involved in local Transition Advisory Committees to facilitate ongoing relationships with other interested professionals.

Community Collaboration

- Community Transition Council/Committee
A transition council may include agency representation from:
ADRC (Aging & Disability Resource Centers)
High Schools- Technical Colleges- Universities
DVR (Division of Vocational Rehab.)
Supportive employment agencies
Job Centers
Health and Human Services agencies
Social Security office
CESA (Cooperative Educational Services Agency)

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Donna Calhoun and Staff
of the
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AND
The staff of ADRC of Richland County